

HOUSE No. 2641

By Mr. Keenan of Southwick, petition of Daniel F. Keenan relative to establishing a nursing facility conversion pilot program. Public Health.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NURSING FACILITY CONVERSION PILOT PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary,
2 there is hereby established a pilot demonstration program, subject
3 to appropriation, for the purpose of converting entire or parts of
4 licensed nursing facilities to community-based residences pro-
5 viding alternative services for underserved elderly and disabled
6 populations. Nursing facilities seeking to voluntarily convert to
7 community-based residences providing alternative services for
8 underserved elderly and disabled populations must be currently
9 operating licensed nursing facilities which conform with local
10 zoning, fire safety and state and federal licensure and certification
11 standards. Conversions shall include both the physical plant
12 readaptation of the former nursing facility and the establishment
13 of community-based residences providing alternative services for
14 underserved elderly and disabled populations including, but not
15 limited to, affordable assisted living residences, group homes for
16 the mentally retarded and mentally ill, and outpatient medical and
17 dental services.

18 A committee composed of the Secretaries of Executive Office
19 of Health and Human Services and the Department of Elder
20 Affairs, the director of the Office of Medicaid, the Undersecretary
21 of the Disabilities and Community Services, the Chair of the
22 House Committee on Health Care, the Chair of the Senate Com-
23 mittee on Health Care, the Chair of House Committee on Ways

24 and Means, the Chair of Senate Committee on Ways and Means, a
25 representative from the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation,
26 and a consumer representatives shall establish the selection cri-
27 teria for eligibility for the pilot demonstration program, determine
28 participants in said program and establish funding methodology,
29 which shall include, but not be limited to: 1. recognition of cap-
30 ital costs for conversion of an entire or part of a nursing facility to
31 community-based residence providing alternative services for
32 underserved elderly and disabled populations; and 2. establish-
33 ment of an ongoing operating rate that recognizes the operational
34 costs of the new community-based residences providing alterna-
35 tive services for underserved elderly and disabled populations.